

W.C.W.

who's that  
weird-looking  
old guy

with the tie  
in that picture  
up there? izzat

your grandfather  
or something?  
yes I say

good guess  
that's exactly  
who it is

— Jim Cory

Philadelphia PA

#### THE YELLOW CAT

Here's  
my wife's yellow cat  
dozing  
in front of the fire.

My wife is asleep  
upstairs  
where I should be  
at this hour

but  
there's still  
a puddle of wine  
left in the bottle  
& butt enough  
of a cigar  
left to suck on

& there's still a voice  
that says: "Speak."

Everyone wants something more  
but sometimes something more  
is something less:



less wine  
less fire  
less time.

I'd given the cat  
a late snack,  
not because  
I'm fond of it  
but because  
that's what my wife  
would want me to do

so sometimes  
we do things  
for reasons  
that aren't apparent.

The cat is content now:  
a yellow cat  
getting old,

while out on the bay  
the cherry red eye  
of a boat's running light  
peers through the dark  
of another hour  
that's numbered  
for both of us.

— Richard M. West

Bainbridge Island WA

#### THE HISTORY OF BAIT

"Let your bait fall gently upon the water," says Izaak Walton. Your fish should be scarcely aware his environment has altered. What ho? he says, without the slightest sense of danger, turning to get a better look JESUS CHRIST ALMIGHTY A FAT DRAGONFLY GOBBLE-GOBBLE and that's it. You got him.

Early baiters realized quickly the need for finesse. One does not simply plop bait down in front of the baitee. If the bait is delivered aggressively it is less attractive than if it appears passive and defenseless. (cf. The History of Advertising, The History of Education, The History of Sex)

The experienced baiter does not allow his own tastes and